

Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 SAM-01 /086 W
----- 093534

R 010928Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8896
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5024

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, SY
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF SOVIET DEP FONMIN IN DAMASCUS

REF: MOSCOW 12018

1. FIRST REPORT WE RECEIVED OF POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF DEP
FONMIN KUZNETSOV IN DAMASCUS WAS VOICE OF PALESTINE
BROADCAST LAST WEEK STARTING DEP FONMIN (NO NAME GIVEN)
HAD BEEN PRESENT AT LUNCHEON OFFERED BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR
MOUKHITDINOV IN HONOR OF PALESTINIAN DELEGATION.

2. EMBOFF ASKED SOVIET EMBOFF JULY 26 ABOUT REPORT AND
WAS TOLD IT WAS ERRONEOUS. MOUKHITDINOV HAD GIVEN
LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF VISITING DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE
WHO WAS IN DAMASCUS AS USSR REP TO DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL
FAIR, SOVIET EMBOFF SAID.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, SYRIAN JOURNALIST CONFIRMED VISIT OF
DEP FONMIN KUZNETSOV AND ALSO THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESENT
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AT MOUKHITDINOV'S LUNCH FOR PALESTINIANS ON JULY 24.

HIS SOURCE WAS HEAD OF PALESTINIAN DELEGATION WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT AT LUNCHEON. JOURNALIST ALSO SAID MOUKHITDINOV HAD LEFT ON CONSULTATION JULY 25 AND WE ASSUME KUZNETSOV WOULD HAVE LEFT ON SAME PLANE. MOUKHITDINOV WAS HERE EVENING JULY 28, SO STORY ABOUT HIS DEPARTURE MAY BE INCORRECT.

4. NEITHER WE NOR FRG EMBOFF, WHOSE INITIAL REPORT CAME FROM SAME SYRIAN JOURNALIST (PARA 3), HAVE RECEIVED ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON OR CONFIRMATION ON KUZNETSOV'S POSSIBLE VISIT.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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